

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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S E C R E T USNATO 4221

E.O. 11652: GDS: 12/31/81

TAGS: MARR, US, NATO

SUBJ: CIVIL EMERGENCY PLANNING SUPPORT TO MILITARY PREPAREDNESS

1. ON 7 SEPTEMBER THE NATO SENIOR CIVIL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE APPROVED KEY DOCUMENTS OF CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE TO NATO AND US PREPAREDNESS PLANNING. THEY CONCERN PORT OPERATIONS IN NATO EUROPE AND SHIPPING PLANS FOR SEA MOVEMENT OF NATO REINFORCEMENTS PRIOR TO THE OUTBREAK OF HOSTILITIES.

2. THE EFFECT OF THESE DOCUMENTS IS SUMMARIZED AS FOLLOWS:

(1) PLANNING FOR PORT OPERATIONS, RECEPTION CAPACITY AND EVALUATION IN NATO EUROPE (AC/98-D/647) OVERTURNS OUTMODED GUIDANCE THAT ALL MAJOR EUROPEAN PORTS WOULD BE SHUT DOWN AND EVACUATED AT OUTSET OF ANY HOSTILITIES. ESTABLISHES POLICY
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GUIDANCE THAT PORTS SHOULD BE OPERATED AS LONG AS POSSIBLE AND ONLY EVACUATED WHEN NUCLEAR STRIKE DETERMINED TO BE IMMINENT OR OTHER DIRECT ENEMY ACTION MAKES EVACUATION ESSENTIAL.

(2) SHIPPING PLANS UNDER THE REVISED BASIC ASSUMPTIONS

(AC/98-D/660) FILLS AN EXISTING GAP BY APPROVING ESSENTIAL ORGANIZATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE CONTROL AND OPERATION OF NATO MERCHANT SHIPPING AT THE OUTSET OF HOSTILITIES AND IN A CONFLICT SHORT OF GENERAL NUCLEAR WAR. ALSO PROVIDES COORDINATING ARRANGEMENTS TO MEET ANY ABNORMAL REQUIREMENTS FOR SHIPPING DURING A PERIOD OF CRISIS PRIOR TO HOSTILITIES.

(3) ORGANIZATION OF SEA MOVEMENT OF NATO REINFORCEMENTS

PRIOR TO OUTBREAK OF HOSTILITIES (AC/98-D/661) MEETS A US REQUEST FOR NATO MEANS TO SATISFY SPECIFIC DEFICIENCIES IN US SHIPPING CAPACITY TO EFFECT EARLY REINFORCEMENT OF US FORCES IN EUROPE.

3. COMMENT:

WHILE MORE NEEDS TO BE DONE, MISSION CONSIDERS THAT THESE REPORTS, TAKEN TOGETHER, DEMONSTRATE THAT CONCERTED US ACTION AND CLOSE COLLABORATION WITH KEY ALLIES CAN BRING ABOUT SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENTS IN HARNESSING CIVIL RESOURCES TO ENHANCE THE DEFENSE CAPABILITIES OF THE ALLIANCE. THE COMING DISCUSSION OF THIS MESSAGE'S SUBJECT BY SENIOR CIVIL PLANNING OFFICIALS FROM CAPITALS MEETING HERE 3-5 OCTOBER, WILL PROVIDE AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY FOR THE UNITED STATES TO ENCOURAGE FURTHER PROGRESS IN THIS IMPORTANT FIELD OF CIVIL MILITARY COOPERATION IN NATO DEFENSE PLANNING. RUMSFELD

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